DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 397 973 PS 024 405

AUTHOR Geiger, Brenda
TITLE Fathers as Primary Caregivers. Contributions in Family Studies, Number 17.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-313-29919-6; ISSN-0147-1023
PUB DATE 96
NOTE 168p.
AVAILABLE FROM Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881 ($49.95). CT 06881 ($49.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Affection; *Attachment Behavior; Child Rearing; Comparative Analysis; Day Care; Family (Sociological Unit); *Fathers; *Homemakers; *Infants; Interviews; Mothers; Nuclear Family; Observation; Parent Child Relationship; *Parent Role
IDENTIFIERS Affiliative Behavior; Division of Labor (Household); Nontraditional Families; Primary Caregivers; Secondary Caregivers; Security of Attachment

ABSTRACT

This study compares affiliative and attachment behaviors of nontraditional fathers who are their infant's primary caregivers, secondary caregiving fathers, and primary and secondary caregiving mothers. Subjects were 28 mobile infants and their middle-class American parents. In half of the families, the father was the primary caregiver; in the remainder, the mother was the primary caregiver. Parents were interviewed at home regarding child care arrangements and caregiving tasks. Three interaction episodes were videotaped and coded, each infant interacting with each parent and a friendly stranger in the parents' presence. Findings indicated that nontraditional families shared more caregiving tasks than traditional families. Caregiving amount was related to caregiving role rather than gender. Primary and secondary caregiving parents showed similar affiliative behaviors under non-stressful conditions; however, primary caregivers displayed more affection than secondary caregivers. Under non-stressful conditions, infants displayed similar affiliative behaviors toward parents; however, they displayed more affection toward primary than secondary caregivers. Under stress, infants' preference for primary caregivers emerged. (Six appendices include the Parents' Interview Guide, behavior definitions, observation coding sheets, reliability data, parents' background information, and mean frequency data for parents' and infants' behaviors. Contains 30 tables and 131 references.) (KDFB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****